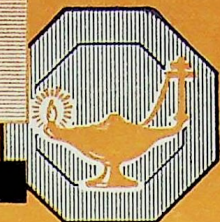


TOCH JOURNAL

NOVEMBER
1956

NEWS • VIEWS • IDEAS



PUBLISHED BY TOCH AT FORTY-SEVEN
FRANCIS STREET - LONDON - S.W.1

9^D.

Christmas Cards and Diaries

Details and an order form for this year's Christmas Cards and the 1957 Toc H Diary are printed at the back of this issue. Last year the entire stock of Christmas Cards and Diaries was quickly sold out and to avoid possible disappointment, readers are urged to send in their orders NOW.

Two Plays

The Torch Players will be presenting *The Corn is Green* by Emlyn Williams, at Wimbledon Town Hall, S.W.19. Monday to Thursday November 5-8 at 7.30. For free numbered and reserved seats send a stamped, addressed envelope direct to Patrick Partridge, 95 Melrose Avenue, Wimbledon Park, S.W.19.

The Stock Exchange Dramatic and Operatic Society will be presenting *Witness for the Prosecution* at the Scala Theatre, London, W.1, on Wednesday, November 28 at 7.30. Tickets from the Bursar's Office, 47 Francis Street, S.W.1. All proceeds to Toc H.

Acknowledgement

We are indebted to 'Tiny' Little of Penge & Anerley Branch for the photograph reproduced on page 339.

Advertisements

Enquiries from Advertisers with products of interest to our readers, are most welcome. Rates and details will be readily supplied. Readers can greatly help by letting us know of manufacturers prepared to give consideration to advertising their products in the JOURNAL.

Ourselves

The Toc H JOURNAL is published monthly, eleven times a year. The April issue is a double number and there is no August number. A subscription can commence with any issue and costs only 9s. for a complete year.

N.B.—A price concession to 7s. 6d. per dozen, post free, is made to all Branches ordering a minimum of one dozen copies.

THIRTY-FOURTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

TOCH JOURNAL

November
1956



NEWS • VIEWS • IDEAS

Letters and articles are welcomed and are printed as individual points of view, and are not necessarily those of the Movement

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Cover Picture:

At the Uganda meeting held at the Alliance Hall, Westminster, on September 10. (left to right) Charles Potts, Ben Miles, Barclay Baron, Sir Giles Squire and John Callf. (see article "Black and Brown and White" on page 327).

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Spreading the Load

by THE EDITOR

ANY POSSIBLE DOUBTS that may have crossed members' minds when this year's programme for a series of fifteen Power Conferences was first announced have long since been blown sky-high. With thirteen already held and the remaining two taking place this month (at Gilsland, Cumberland, November 3-4 and Moreton Paddox, Warwickshire, November 17-18) there is ample testimony that the venture has everywhere proved most successful.

The Conferences have provided a valuable two-way exchange of hopes and ideas for the Movement's next ten years between the men on the frontier and those at its centre. Members have readily taken the opportunity offered for getting to know members of the Central Executive and whole-time staff at first hand and their talks and discussions have been filled with a strong sense of responsibility and purpose.

While it would be quite impossible to pin-point the immediate results, one thing at least is certain. For those who shared in them the Power Conferences have gone a long way towards killing any 'they' complex—sometimes born of a feeling of futility and frustration—that finds expression in an oft-reiterated "Why don't *they* do something?"

Although the total attendances at all the Conferences will have reached into four figures, there still remains the task of 'spreading the load' among the far greater number of members who were unable to be 'amongst those present'. It is doubtful if any of the three men selected by their Branch to attend will entirely succeed in conveying by word of mouth alone the inspiration they themselves have received. It is far more likely to be transmitted in the workaday life of the Branch and the wider world beyond the meeting place.

Membership of Toc H does not imply escape from the facts of life. The world in which we are living bristles with problems many of which concern personal relationships. The true strength and vitality of the Movement is at Branch level—where the implications of the Main Resolution are being worked out on a day-to-day basis—and the power generated by these Conferences will be harnessed in the Branches by those who have shared in the adventure and are now 'spreading the load'.

Black and Brown and White

by BARCLAY BARON

SOME OF THE READERS of these pages will see New Year's Day, 2000, the dawn of the third millenium since Christ was born. As they look back on the confused century in which we now live, what will they see? They will see two great wars—God grant that they will not have had to survive a third, yet more devastating! But they will surely think of those two ancient wars as important, not in themselves but mainly as the chief instruments of world revolution; they will be witnessing some of the results of our generation's refined savagery. What will really matter is that they will see, as we are already beginning to do, a new Asia—an awakened China, new nations in India, Ceylon, Malaya. And they will have to face a new Africa, which some of us foresee as the most tremendous fact of the next half-century. "Mankind", as wise old General Smuts said, "has struck its tents and is once more on the march". This time it is, above all, black and brown and yellow mankind which is marching.

'Africa, awake!'

The whole of the most backward continent in the world, from the Mediterranean to the Cape of Good Hope (would the hope were better!) is stirring out of its age-long sleep. It is an awakening wonderful and charged with excitement but also with bitter pains; it is as difficult and as dangerous as birth can be. For the different limbs of the enormous body of Africa are in very various stages of awakening and great tensions are set up which strain the whole. Black South Africa is forcibly held back for the moment (inexorable history will say only for a long moment); Central Africa moves hesitatingly towards a possible multi-racial society; West Africa thrusts impetuously forward (maybe too fast) into democratic self-government, while Egypt makes an experiment in dictatorship; the vast territories held by the French, Belgian and Portuguese still live in "colonialism", whether militant, benevolent or slipshod, which cannot endure for ever; the three countries of East Africa are in stages widely different—Tanganyika, the largest, still scarcely "developed". Kenya emerging from a most barbarous "emergency" into the hopes of a new order, Uganda, the

smallest, beset by a deep unrest. No wonder that a whole continent is suffering from growing pains!

There is great need for us all to have this "wide-screen" view of Africa before us, but it is too wide to stare at for long, it tires the eyes. Let us pinpoint, therefore, one small patch of it near its centre, which is upon the equator. Uganda is a big enough country in itself, but the area of Kampala, its capital, and round about is limited enough for even so small an agency as Toc H to have a noticeable impact upon it. And there things *are* beginning to happen which may even prove to be the most significant piece of work that Toc H is doing in any part of the world at the present time.

Briefly, the story of Toc H Uganda is that between the wars, there was a small Branch of European government servants and business men in Kampala. Its fortunes fluctuated, a common fate in "foreign" countries where Europeans come and go, until, with the war, they mostly went and the Branch



Charles Potts, Hon. Commissioner.
Toc H, Uganda.

with them. A new effort began when, some eight years ago, Charles Potts arrived, a Colonial civil servant in charge of Community Welfare; he is now our Commissioner in Uganda. The little group prospered and in due time received its Lamp as a Branch. Six years ago Barkis, on a visit from home, had the joy of initiating the first two "non-European" members, excellent Africans in government service. Two years ago Aggrey Willis, a sergeant in an East African unit, was recruited in the Suez Canal

Zone for Toc H, flew home for demobilisation and training and went out, as our first African full-timer, to work in Uganda. Today, thanks to the hard work of Charles and the enthusiasm of Aggrey, there are two Branches and four groups in and near Kampala. What is more, as you go about in Kampala today you meet more and more people who do not need to ask you what Toc H is.

To shake hands with an individual African at a Branch

meeting at home or to sit beside him at supper in a Mark is a pleasure no longer very rare. But to face the audience at the first Conference of Toc H Uganda in Kampala Town Hall on the last day of June this year was an experience of far deeper significance. In an audience of some sixty people, men and women together, as they are more apt to be in their work overseas than they are in most places at home, the white faces were in a minority: more of them were of the many degrees of blackness that belongs to the African, and a sprinkling were brown, for the Asian population of Uganda far outnumbers the European. Moreover, if you had enquired, you would have found that none of the Asians was a Christian by belief: the handful of Hindoos, the bearded Sikh and a Parsee have all felt able honestly to sign our membership form while holding to the faiths of their fathers. (This is a difficult question which has been reviewed long and carefully at Headquarters and in the Central Executive, and Kampala, with its strong core of African and European Christians, has been allowed to break new ground). Lastly, the Conference was opened with an excellent talk on social service by Lady Cohen, the wife of the Governor of Uganda. Both of them have been quick to recognise the true potentialities of Toc H on the spot. Moreover the Legislative Council, the parliament of the country, has backed these valuable allies by voting a very substantial part of the salary for a European full-time Toc H staff man—probably the first instance in the world of direct government financial support (without any “strings”) to our Movement. Anyone called upon to address the Uganda Conference must have been much moved by the thought that he was face to face with the members of the first genuinely multi-racial area of Toc H in its history.



Ben Miles, recently returned home from Malaya.

Since then Charles Potts has been at home on a short leave and has devoted a generous part of it to Toc H affairs. He

has been able, with great effect, to tell the story of Uganda's pioneering effort at more than one of the Power Conferences and on September 10 he addressed a specially invited meeting in a hall in London at which Sir Giles Squire, lately a member of our Central Executive who has encouraged Toc H in several visits to East Africa, took the chair. Barkis set the picture, Charles Potts filled in the graphic details and then the "European full-timer" who is to join the staff in Uganda after Christmas, spoke with force and humour. This is none other than Ben Miles, formerly Secretary of two London Areas, now fresh home from three years of work in the set-up of new villages in Malaya inaugurated by General Templer.

Charles, Aggrey and Ben—it will be a strong team in the front line of a great opportunity. For the future of Uganda depends vitally on the partnership of black and brown and white, and already some observers on the spot are saying that Toc H, more than any other agency, is demonstrating that the secret lies in the simplest forms of fellowship and service, a united family working together with their hands and hearts. It is a tiny seed we have planted, but who knows how high the tree may grow?

SENIOR SERVICE



Satisfy

The Outstanding
Cigarette
of the Day

WELL MADE • WELL PACKED

MULTUM || MUCH IN PARVO || IN LITTLE

✠ THE ADMINISTRATOR, JOHN CALLE, has been invited to visit Australia as the guest of Toc H there and will be leaving soon after Christmas, calling at South India and Singapore *en route*, paying a short visit to New Zealand and returning at the end of April.

✠ STUART GREENACRE, Southern Area Secretary, is still in the Sir Henry Gauvain Hospital, Alton, Hants, and is making a good recovery.

✠ "THE BORDON COMPANY": A leaflet bearing this title, produced by a few members and enclosed in this issue, is commended by the Central Executive to all readers.

✠ TOC H IN WALES now consists of three Divisions: North Wales, South Wales and Monmouthshire. The former Clwyd-Conwy and Mon-Arfon Divisions have been merged in the one North Wales Division. the Hon. Correspondent being G. A. Edwards, Sunny Vista, St. Catherine's Drive, Old Colwyn, Denbighshire.

✠ THE CENTRAL COUNCIL for 1956-58 consists of forty re-elected and sixty new Councillors. It's a wise member who knows and meets his Councillor.

✠ IF IN LONDON, be a "Witness for the Prosecution" at the Scala Theatre at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 28.

✠ THE WORLD CHAIN OF LIGHT: Recordings made at the start of the Vigil in Belfast on December 11 will be broadcast in "Ulster Magazine" in overseas programmes of the B.B.C. on Christmas Day. The observances of the World Chain in the hemisphere westward from New Zealand to Northern Ireland will be held at 9 p.m. by local time on December 12.

✠ The rebuilt Church of ALL HALLOWS-BY-THE-TOWER will be re-dedicated on Tuesday evening, July 23, 1957. For the convenience of members of Toc H and the Women's Association from afar there will also be a special service on Saturday afternoon, July 27.

✠ There will be a TOC H FESTIVAL held in London on Saturday, December 7, 1957.

267,922 People

by R. E. BURREN

IT IS DIFFICULT to visualise 267,922 people. They are more than double the number who go to Wembley Stadium to see the Cup Final : on a State occasion they would line the Mall over forty deep on both sides from Admiralty Arch to Buckingham Palace ; they would occupy all the seats in seven-coach Underground trains passing at 90-second intervals from 1.30 a.m. to midnight. 267,922 people is more than the total population of Coventry or Cardiff, two-and-a-half times that of York or more than double that of Preston. 267,922 people were the number of people killed or injured on the roads of Great Britain in 1955 ; but, apart from the victims and those close to them, do many people really care ?

Who is to blame ?

Who is to blame for this appalling state of affairs in which fifteen people set out from their homes each day never to return alive and a further seven hundred set out to return injured, some of them crippled for life ? The obvious answer is one of the parties involved in each accident ; but nobody wants to be involved in an accident with its resulting suffering and worry. The unfortunate fact is that the Law and Code of the Highway are neither adequately observed nor enforced.

If the Law is not observed and enforced should we not blame the police ? Hardly, for they are short-staffed and the inadequate penalties inflicted must make them feel that it is not worth the time and effort of prosecuting. In a case reported earlier this year a driver was convicted of ignoring a "Halt" sign and passing through a restricted village at over sixty miles per hour. Despite the police statement that the driver had fifty-two previous convictions for motoring offences he was fined a mere £12. A petty thief, convicted of a far greater proportion of his offences than a dangerous driver, would be placed under some restraint long before he got to his fiftieth conviction, but a driver endangering lives and limbs gets away with a footling fine. We can hardly blame the police for failure to enforce the highway law.

Who then can we blame ? The magistrates ? The Ministry of Transport ? Local Authorities ? Motorists ? Cyclists ?

Pedestrians? Various Vested Interests? All bear some responsibility, but the real blame rests on us, and the people next door, for acquiescing in injuries to a quarter-of-a-million people each year without protest. Individually we can do little about it, but there are nearly 18,000 of us in Toc H (a potential 120 road casualties during the next twelve months on the 1955 accident rate) and if we all put our minds to it we could do something.

The Branch responsible for this article has considered this problem in the past and has succeeded in getting the phasing of some traffic lights altered. If this has saved one injury the effort has been worth it. Our members are going to spend more time in the future thinking about the problem, we hope fairly and without bitterness, and will prepare reports on our conclusions. These reports will be circulated to the local press, Members of Parliament and local authorities. They will also be sent to local churches and other bodies asking them to help us to try to build up a body of public opinion which considers human life and limb more important than saving a few minutes on a journey. They will also be sent out to a few other Toc H Branches to show them what we are doing in the hope that, if they are not already taking an active interest in the subject, they will make a start.

POSTSCRIPT.

Nine Lives is the title of a booklet which is being given to every driver when he renews his driving licence, as a striking reminder of the more common ways in which accidents



happen. The booklet has been produced in the interests of road safety by Shell-Mex and B.P., Ltd., in association with the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation. Scarcely any larger in size than the licence, the booklet contains nine coloured drawings of scenes in which accidents are about to happen and underneath is given the number of accidents caused in a year by the fault indicated. In the first eight months of this year, 3,471 people were killed

and 41,105 seriously injured in accidents on the roads.

The Elder Brethren

*At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them*

ALMOND.—On September 5, HAROLD ALMOND, aged 49, a member of Blackburn Branch. Elected 9.6.'44.

BELL.—On July 17, GEORGE BELL, aged 83, a member of Goffs Oak Branch. Elected 27.2.'45.

BILBROUGH.—On August 22, GEORGE VICTOR BILBROUGH, aged 59, a member of Balham Branch. Elected 1.7.'20.

BIRKMIRE.—On September 12, the Rev. ALEX BIRKMIRE, T.D., aged 66, pastor of Lightcliffe Congregational Church, Halifax, Yorkshire, formerly of Buckhurst Hill, Essex. The first Free Church Padre of Toc H, 1923 to 1931. Elected 1.8.'23.

BLUNT.—On September 10, ARTHUR J. BLUNT, aged 87, a member of Goffs Oak Branch. Elected 22.10.'31.

BREWIN.—On July 25, ERNEST H. BREWIN, aged 52, a member of Anstey Branch. Elected July '37.

BROWN.—Suddenly, on August 8, EUSTACE HARWOOD BROWN, aged 58, a member of Dulwich Branch. Elected 14.10.'52.

BUSH.—On July 30, GEORGE FREDERICK BUSH, aged 77, a founder member of Ayton Branch. Elected 27.10.'55.

CARR.—On September 8, NORMAN SIMMONS CARR, aged 80, the Pilot of Burnham-on-Crouch Branch. Elected 26.11.'31.

COOLEY.—On September 1, HARRY LAWRENCE COOLEY, aged 57, the Jobmaster of Malmesbury Branch. Elected 27.1.'47.

HOLMAN.—On September 6, EDWARD HOLMAN, aged 69, a member of Calne Branch. Elected 24.1.'56.

JOHNSON.—Suddenly, on August 29, DAVID JOHNSON, aged 52, a member of Hetton-le-Hole Branch. Elected 20.7.'48.

LILLYMAN.—On August 2, ISAAC LILLYMAN ('Ike'), aged 84, a founder member of Guernsey Northern Branch. Elected 21.12.'32.

MOORE.—On September 21, ALBERT MOORE, aged 70, a former chairman of Anstey Branch. Elected 1.6.'38.

PAGE.—On September 22, WALTER JAMES PAGE, aged 65, a member of Anstey Branch. Elected 20.9.'34.

PARKINSON.—On August 29, the Rev. GEORGE ANTHONY PARKINSON, aged 75, a member of Guernsey Northern Branch. Elected 1.11.'54.

RECORD.—On September 25, at Launceston, Tasmania, Hon. E. GEORGE RECORD, O.B.E., M.L.C., J.P., Hon. Area Commissioner, Toc H in Tasmania, 1934-38.

STREET.—On September 3, SYDNEY C. STREET, aged 72, a member of Louth Branch. Elected 3.6.'27.

WATSON.—In April, ERIC C. WATSON, aged 50, a member of Singapore Branch. Elected 2.8.'34.

Scene of the Vigil

THE WORLD CHAIN OF LIGHT will start in Belfast and will be observed in Ireland and the hemisphere west of it at 9 p.m. on December 11. In the rest of the world Branches will be due to take their part on Wednesday, December 12. They can now be exchanging messages with other Branches in distant parts so as to be in time to read them and the one sent from Toc H in Northern Ireland just before it is 9 p.m. by their own time.



During the twenty-four hours a Vigil will be kept in the Chapel, pictured above, of the Belfast Institute of the Missions to Seamen. This new building is a memorial to the men of the Merchant Navy who gave their lives during the war of 1939-45. It was completed last January and opened by H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh in April. Toc H has given help to the Missions to Seamen in many parts of the world and no doubt many seafaring members have enjoyed their welcome and hospitality. It is appropriate that the forging of the chain around the world should be based on the Missions to Seamen this year, when the society has been keeping its centenary.

General Members, Toc H Builders and other friends are invited to enquire where the nearest local observance of the World Chain will be held and to share in it. For visitors to London not joining with a nearby Branch, a service will be held in All Hallows-by-the-Tower at 8.45 p.m. on Wednesday, December 12.

Reveille

by STANLEY BERWICK
and JACK HARRISON

THERE WAS ONCE an Inspector of Taxes who began a letter to a pen friend "Dear Sir. Unless . . .". The Inspector is still with us, but nowadays the poor (or perishing, depending on your point of view) employer does his job for him. Consequently "Unless . . ." has become redundant and "PAYE" reigns supreme—or almost. And so the change from the voluntary to the compulsory is complete. "Unless" implied at least that you had the right of choice of the least inconvenient time to pay, within limits, but pay you must—"PAYE" implies nothing. You pay before you receive the wages you have earned. And so the innocent joy of voluntarily paying compulsory taxes is now denied to us.

Toc H members labour under no such compulsory system. The innocent joy of voluntary giving is ours to the utmost limit—whichever end of the limit we choose to accept. If membership carried with it a compulsory tax of £1 per head our financial problems would be solved—or would they?

We have preferred thus far in our history to share our problems with the membership and to invite voluntary and willing co-operation rather than fall back upon compelling tactics. Our preference is shared by many members and Branches who willingly provide year in and year out substantial contributions to the Family Purse; it appears that our preference is also shared by many who make little or no contribution towards the family's need. We would still rather win the willing support of the second category than compel all to contribute a fixed sum. We believe that this is in accordance with the spirit of Toc H and that willing acceptance of a share in the responsibility for the growth and development of the wider family has its counterpart in the growth and development of our own Branch and of ourselves.

But there comes a time of stock-taking; a time to review our prospects in the light of our experience. That time is with us now, this year, this very month of November and each succeeding month throughout the year.

Your Finance Committee—and it is *yours* remember, it

operates in the interest of the whole family—has recently produced estimates for this new year. It looks as though we are faced with an expenditure of £65,000 if all plans mature. We hope to receive £10,000 from Toc H Builders and £10,000 from investments and similar sources. That leaves £45,000 to be found.

This enormous sum works out at about one shilling per week from each member. or, to put it another way, it is equal to a contribution from every Branch averaging 1s. per member per week and raised by the Branch from (a) self-assessments (b) tax recovered from members' deed of covenant subs and (c) special efforts.

During this month of November all Branch Treasurers should be preparing their Branch budget for the year ahead and submitting it to the Branch for acceptance. No such budget can be complete if your Treasurer omits to provide for a contribution to the Family Purse. The contribution should be included as a first priority ranking equally with essential expenditure and taking precedence over any other contributions which your Branch may make.

The measure to be used has been suggested above. We should see that the actual payment, quarter by quarter, or month by month, fills up the measure and is "pressed down and running over".

These are elementary principles we should all adopt in financing the family. They are clear, simple, and within the compass of us all. We urge all Branches to proceed along the lines we have suggested.

We believe that membership of this our family carries with it definite obligations and responsibilities which we must learn voluntarily to accept. Foremost amongst these must be the maintenance of that quality of fellowship in Toc H under whose influence men grow in mind and spirit. Inseparable from this quality of fellowship and indeed arising directly from it is the desire, the determination, the compelling urge to take the good thing thus begun to an ever-widening circle of friends, both at Home and Overseas.

Our sole concern with money is to see that these objects are fostered and pursued. Each member has a clear obligation to contribute what he can in the way of time, talents and money towards these ends. We are proposing to proceed on the assumption that these obligations will be accepted by the family as a whole.

The alternatives, the constant anxiety regarding finance, the inability for lack of money to take opportunities of building the Kingdom, cannot seriously be contemplated as a continuing hindrance to our work: they hinder it now at every turn. It is within our power as a family to put an end to this state of things.

As two members of the family primarily concerned with finance, we stand firmly alongside your Area Treasurers in asking *you* for *your* active support in our joint efforts to break the grip of this financial stranglehold which threatens to choke the life out of any forward move we may hope to make.

God willing it shall be done.

OLD HOUSE WARDEN

by KEN OLIVER

Impressions of a fortnight spent at the Old House this Summer by the Rev. K. C. Oliver, O.B.E., Assistant Chaplain General and a former member of Toc H staff.

THERE IS ALWAYS something exciting about arriving at a foreign port in the early hours of the morning, and the fact that I was re-visiting Poperinge after a lapse of eighteen years made our arrival at Dunkerque even more thrilling than usual. Grant, my elder son, and I were due to meet Ted Fisher and Jim Roberts on the quayside where there would be a car to take us to Poperinge. Everything worked out well and the faithful Harry Dumortier was already waiting when we came down the gangway at five o'clock in the morning.

We arrived in Poperinge just as it was getting light. At the Old House a tousled figure, later identified as Sylvain, opened the door and suggested we should retire to bed for a few hours until breakfast was ready. We took his advice gladly. When we came down to breakfast there were already half-a-dozen others partaking of a communal meal of Continental rolls and *confiture*. We sat down with them and at once felt the family atmosphere, which has always been such a feature of Toc H life. Breakfast is a pretty fair test of this!

After breakfast I wandered round the House trying to recapture something of its spirit. The first thing that one

notices on coming into the hall is the English-looking garden with its green lawns and bright herbaceous borders. The hall has a character all of its own with its many photographs and witty notices—"Pessimist's Way Out" still points at the front door, and the warning against catching cold to those who hang about in the hall persuades visitors to climb the stairs and "Risk Meeting the Chaplain". Upstairs the Writing Room and Library are still very much as they were in the old days. Even the books seem to be out of another world and on taking one casually out of the shelves I read on the fly-page "P. B. Clayton, Exeter College, Oxford". One of the bedrooms still carries bullet marks in the ceiling supposed to have been caused by a German officer's habit of arousing his batman in an upstairs room, during the occupation, by a revolver shot.

The stairs to the Chapel, no longer simply a ladder, are still a fair test of agility, but the climb is worth while, as once in the Chapel one realises that this indeed is the soul of the House. It is not easy to describe its atmosphere, but there is no doubt that it is unique. Without it Toc H would never have been born.

During the next few days I had plenty of opportunity of studying the reactions of the casual visitors that I took round the House. Many of them arrived purely out of curiosity and were quite astonished at finding something so British in the middle of Belgium. A few were veterans of the 1914 war and came to re-capture old memories. One large party of Air Force Cadets showed clearly by their interest that the story of Talbot House still has its appeal to the younger generation. I felt it a great privilege to be showing them round and found that the combination of humour and seriousness made an instant appeal, while the Upper Room seemed the natural climax of the visit.



Padre Ken Oliver in the garden at the Old House.

Those staying in the House formed an interesting variety. There was the Australian couple who came for a night and stayed a week, the 'Old Contemptible' and his wife who went off each day to visit families whom he had met during the 1914 war, and who always returned with tales of astonishing hospitality and, last, but not least, 'Tiny' Little and Harry and Alec, old friends from South London, who supplied the essential Toc H heaven of friendliness and humour.

The highlight of my fortnight as Warden was the visit of Tubby and a party largely composed of Winant Volunteers. As usual, there was a real mixture both of age and outlook. The veterans included, apart from Tubby himself, Arthur Ridges, Miss Macfie and Daisy Day, and Frank Coleman-Cross, unexpectedly on leave from Cyprus. The reaction of the young Americans was fascinating to watch, often bewildered by the whole atmosphere and slightly astonished at our apparent preoccupation with cemeteries, but by the end of the visit they were beginning to understand, almost for the first time, something of what Toc H was all about.

But it was in the Upper Room that the party really found itself. Gathered around the carpenter's bench while Tubby celebrated Holy Communion, we felt a real link with a host of worshippers from the past and in fellowship with the Communion of Saints we understood something of that compelling spirit that built Toc H in the early twenties. On the last night we all attended a Midnight Communion. This was quite one of the most moving services at which I have ever taken part.

The Old House has become an integral part of Poperinge and is closely associated with the life of the town. Angèle and Sylvain are a vital link between Toc H and the town and are most skilful at interpreting one to the other.

Yvonne, Marcel and Rolande, by their friendship and hospitality, make a grand contribution to the whole atmosphere. Other friends in the town are numerous and the words "Talbot House" are quite sufficient to overcome any language difficulties.

I returned to England having had a delightful and refreshing fortnight, with my belief in Toc H deepened and strengthened. I am certain that the whole Movement is most fortunate in possessing the Old House and only at their peril will its members neglect its inspiration and traditions.

Who's Who ON THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE

MELVILLE DINWIDDIE.

Born in the Parish of Ruthwell on the Solway Firth, where Robert Burns went to recuperate a few weeks before his death, where the first Savings Bank was begun in 1810, in the church of which (Presbyterian and all) stands one of the finest runic crosses in the world, Melville went to school in Dumfries and then on to Edinburgh University. When War was declared in August, 1914, he decided, although a Lowlander, to wear the kilt and was commissioned to the Gordons. He was in Flanders in 1915, being awarded the M.C., followed by a D.S.O. in 1917.



After the war he entered the Church, becoming Minister of St. Machar's Cathedral, Aberdeen, 1925-33. Since that date he has been Scottish Controller, B.B.C., and has also found time to serve as a member of the South-East Divisional and Scottish Regional Executives as well as Chairman of the Scottish Association of Boys' Clubs.

JOHN ALFRED DAVIES.

Educated at Clifton and the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, John Davies was commissioned in the Royal Engineers in July, 1920. After service in various units at home and abroad he was appointed a Staff Captain at the War Office in 1933. In 1936 he became Secretary to the Supply Board of the Committee of Imperial Defence, in 1938 he was made Secretary of the Prime Minister's Panel of Industrial Advisers and from 1939 to 1943, Colonel Davies was in Canada and the United States with supply missions.



Lafayette.

Since leaving the Army he has become Managing Director (Engineering) of an important industrial undertaking and is a member of Stevenage Branch and also serves on Beds. & Herts. Area Executive. Widely travelled, including two visits to Tibet, he is a keen sailor, adept at drawing and painting and is also an enthusiastic photographer.



A question of interest...

have you bought the new
issue of Savings Certificates?

The new issue of National Savings Certificates is really a tremendous buy. In seven years each 15/- certificate you hold becomes £1. And remember, the interest is free of Income Tax. So the interest over the full period, which amounts to £4.3.11 per cent, per annum, is equivalent to £7.5.11 per cent, per annum, if you pay income tax at the standard rate of 8/6 in the pound. You can hold up to 600 units — or £450 worth — so it's well worth your while to buy *all* you can *while* you can.

BRANCH BANNERS

XXVI WATERLOOVILLE

Contributed by TED HALFORD



THE SMALL Hampshire village of Waterlooville has two virile Toc H units—a men's and a women's. The banner is an indication of their close co-operation; the men designed it, the women made it.

The village originated as a settlement of veterans of the famous battle of 1815. The Belgian connection being so obvious, it was felt fitting to incorporate in a design for a Toc H banner the crest of the Belgian township. A letter to the Burgermeister of Waterloo brought a most charming response. With the facsimile of the town arms, M. Jules Descampe sent pamphlets and local photographs, and especially, warm greetings to all Toc H members.

The arms show a lion with a forefoot on a cannon-ball, mounted on a pedestal on top of the pyramid which marks the site of the Battle of Waterloo. This was the design for the Waterlooville units, but upon the pyramid was superimposed the Patriarchal Cross from the arms of Ypres.

Somehow, this Belgian background to the banner keeps in mind, not Napoleon's historic defeat, but the inspiration and spirit of the Old House at Poperinge.

SOLUTIONS TO "COUNTRYSIDE" COMPETITION SPONSORED BY SANDWELL BRANCH

1. Mere, 2. Staddle Stones, 3. Kingcup, 4. Skylark, 5. Raven, 6. Nightingale, 7. Spleenwort, 8. Spruce, 9. Bugle, 10. Adder, 11. Green Cap, 12. Black Cap, 13. Henbane, 14. Natterjack, 15. Cuckoo Pint (Lords & Ladies or Parson in the Pulpit), 16. Aspen, 17. Quince, 18. Yorkshire Fog, 19. Pimpernel, 20. Mole, 21. Broom, 22. The Plough, 23. Plane, 24. Harrow, 25. Pound, 26. White Horse, 27. Blacksmith. First prize £8, divided between: Mr. C. W. Fletcher, Ladywood, and Mr. R. A. Chatterton, Erdington. Second prize £2: Miss M. Shorthouse, Hodgehill.

FAIR CRY

NOTES AND NEWS
FROM DISTANT PARTS

Contributed by GEOFF MARTIN



SAY IT WITH DIAMONDS

ROY FABES, who came into Toc H via the School section a few years ago and subsequently became Secretary of the Maidenhead Branch, has just completed his first term as a diamond buyer in Sierra Leone. He has given us some idea of his daily life.

"I am stationed at Kenema, which is the capital town of the South East Province. There are fifteen Europeans of whom three of us buy diamonds. My company has hacked an airstrip out of the bush, and the first plane landed four months ago from Freetown. When it arrived, everybody fled into the bush. Sierra Leone used to be known as the white man's grave because of fever, but nowadays, such is the boom in diamonds, the real danger is the great number of African Mammy waggons which belt up and down the main tracks or 'roads'.

"The natives pan the diamonds in the bed of the Sewa River and pay £5 for a half-yearly licence. They either bring them straight into Kenema, and risk being set upon and robbed on the way, or they can sell them to the Syrian dealers who squat on the banks waiting to buy. We open the office at eight in the morning and the waiting diggers, who usually

keep their diamonds in their mouths, spit them into tin trays which are passed behind the grill where my colleagues and I sit. We wash them in Dettol and grade them according to one of 360 descriptions, checking the catalogued price for each diamond. In the afternoon the process goes on again. It is all very interesting. My spare time seems to be taken up with a Scout troop and Sunday School".

EASTERN APPROACHES

If there is anyone who reads this overseas feature consistently he might be forgiven for thinking that the progress of Toc H beyond the British Isles is one uninterrupted success story. But if he did he would be wrong. Even from this distance I can on occasions detect in my brothers overseas the same stupidities and futilities and unintelligence and general ineffectiveness that, all too often, my family detects in me !

However, perhaps we can take all this for granted, knowing that because Toc H is very human it will be as full of human faults as of human virtues. I feel that this black-edged note is appropriate because by one post two compliments on Toc H hospitality have come our way, and we would not knowingly fall prey to smugness.

The first is a cutting from the Gossip Column of the *Rhodesia Herald*, the chief paper of Central Africa, and is enclosed in a letter from Norman Fletcher of Salisbury to Ches. Here it is:

Yesterday I met a Swiss, Mr. Gerald Gauthey, who has travelled down Africa on a motor scooter as far as Cape Town and had just arrived, using the same vehicle, in Salisbury.

"What was your first impression?" I asked him.

"My very cold reception at the Publicity Association", was his unhesitating reply.

Right or wrong, that is not the impression we want to get abroad.

I asked him where he was staying. He had not arranged anything and asked in return if there was a youth hostel in the city.

Stumped on that one, I did what I always do when in trouble of this kind—I telephoned Toc H. As usual the response was immediate and helpful.

"Accommodation for a fortnight? Difficult, but we can arrange something. We will look after him."

That is just what they are doing. In fact I have never known Toc H, in any part of the world, not to rise to the occasion with practical hospitality. Truly a great organisation.

The second compliment is contained in a recent letter to Charles Wells, of Downe Branch, in Kent, written by his son in the Navy. He writes from Singapore, and by allowing us

to quote from his letter the father enables his son to speak for himself in his own way.

... My oppos A/B Fright, A/B Thomas, A/B Taylor got permission to go on a week-end, so as Fright could drive they hired a Ford Consul for a week-end. Roy Iles and myself went ashore and happened to meet them in the Britannia Club swimming pool, well it turned out that they had got the car all right but had nowhere to sleep that night, and had tried everywhere but the Toc H, because they had heard it was posh and didn't think they would want Jack about the place. Well I soon told them that my Dad was in the Downe branch at home, and it was nothing of the sort, him being an ordinary country chap, and all that sort of stuff. So off they went with high hopes, and what do you think. They were told they were welcome to have beds for the week-end and could come and go when they pleased. And when they came back on board they were full of it, what good food it was, waited on hand and foot and they thoroughly enjoyed their week-end. Well Dad! Something to tell the boys at the next meeting, how the Singapore Toc H came to the rescue of three matelots without a bed. ...

There is a third note, too, on the same theme. This time from Pat Jaques, Hon. Dominion Secretary of New Zealand:

It all started with a letter bearing a Singapore stamp being dropped into Wellington Post Office box of Toc H, New Zealand, announcing the fact that the cruiser H.M.S. *Newcastle* would, in due course, drop its hook in Port Nicholson and that there were Toc H members among the crew.

Wellington Branch decided to do something about it. ... The chairman and another member went aboard soon after the ship tied up and were ushered into the ward room. Chief Petty Officer Tom Brushwood (Portsmouth Branch) was duly located and showed his visitors over the ship and later the crew members were taken for a drive around the city.

Tom Brushwood, Fred Carr and Mick Haswell of Portsmouth Branch, and Allan Facey of Eastbourne Branch, duly arrived at the home of the writer and his family. The visitors were very much at home in no time, being initiated by the children to the intricacies of 'knuckle bones' amidst great hilarity and noise.

After dinner members of the Branch arrived in force, some complete with wives, and the party proceeded with 'Pop' Saunders (aged eighty-five and once a chorister of Salisbury Cathedral) singing "We Are The Boys Of The Old Brigade". Pat Jaques did some conjuring, then Tom Brushwood took 'Light' and the Branch Padre, Neville Watkins, closed the evening with Family Prayers.

WHAT IS "ALL BROTHERS"?

We are steadily making friends with a Monsieur Gêneau (of 15 Boulevard de l'Ermitage, Montmorency (Seine-et-Oise), France), who was first attracted to Toc H because of certain similarities between our Movement and the one in which he himself has a special interest. He has kindly written a brief description of "Omnes Fratres" and a translation is given here. Many members of Toc H are naturally interested in

societies overseas with rather similar aims, and there may be some who, in spite of the language difficulty, would like to know more. If so, why not write to Monsieur Gèneau ?

The "Omnes Fratres" ("All Brothers") Association is a movement in search of Truth and Love in all their aspects. Its members bind themselves, through a spiritual union close to Life, to cultivate their personal development and to help others to do the same, whatever their upbringing, profession or turn of mind.

"Omnes Fratres" has as its aim to promote and encourage the foundation of "*Chartreuses familiales*" (Carthusian family homes) or "FC" (*Familiarum Carthusiae*) where people live together a way of life with a common ideal.

"Omnes Fratres" is also a meeting place for ideas from the most diverse planes and a pathway for the spreading of the flame which will light each one, in his intimate or social life, towards the life of the spirit of love.

THE SILENT WORLD

by DUDLEY HERRING

THE NEXT TIME you hear Beethoven's Fifth, or the Messiah, or get a glimpse of heaven itself from Elgar's Dream of Gerontius, please spare a thought for those who live in the silent world : those who can hardly remember the sound of music or children's voices, or have never heard a sound of any kind since they were born, and never will, in this world. And if you feel moved to do something for them, may I suggest you find out whether there is a Club for the Deaf in your town. If there isn't, and you and your Branch have a try at getting one launched, I am sure you will find it a rewarding occupation.

Let me tell you how its done, though I wouldn't be so immodest as to suggest that this is the only way to do it. First you get into touch with the Diocesan Missioner to the Deaf and Dumb. I believe he is appointed by the Royal Association in aid of the Deaf and Dumb, and if you don't know who looks after your area no doubt the Association will tell you if you write to their Headquarters at 55 Norfolk Square, London, W.2.

The Missioner will tell you who are the deaf folk living in your town or area and the next job is to write them a letter (it's a good idea to use Toc H notepaper) telling them you are proposing to form a club for them ; that the plan is that

eventually they should run it themselves but that Toc H would start it and hand it over to them as a "going concern". Ask them in the letter if they are interested and offer to call on them.

There won't be any replies (well, perhaps one or two) but you mustn't be dismayed. (You don't like writing letters either). Follow the letter up with a call telling them that there is to be an inaugural meeting at the Toc H room (it's the best place—it has, or should have, the right look and atmosphere) on such and such a date and time and that you do hope they will come. The letter will have prepared the way for your call: if you show them a copy when the door is opened you will avoid having to explain (on paper) that you are not an itinerant salesman or worse.

Pencil and paper

Don't be apprehensive about meeting a deaf person. We went around armed with pencil and paper and we had a little message already written out to show them. It merely referred to the letter and said who we were. Generally we got on famously. Often there will be someone in the house who can speak and hear, but where there isn't (and not infrequently you find that husband and wife are deaf) you get on quite well with paper and pencil or even without them where the deaf one can lip-read. I well remember my first call. The house was occupied by husband and wife—both deaf—and as soon as the husband discovered my identity I was ushered in and initiated into the electrical mysteries of a system of lights in various rooms which were connected with the front door 'bell' push. All his own work it was and as I am a babe in matters electrical I was genuinely impressed. We didn't seem to need my pencil and paper!

At the first meeting it is a good plan to get someone (perhaps the Missioner himself or one of his helpers) who can use the Sign language to come and tell the folk of the plans in more detail. We were lucky in getting the Missioner and one of his helpers to come and they still come and help us. We produced games at our first meeting and asked them what others they wanted. And of course there was something to eat and drink.

The starting of a club of this sort ought to be a joint effort between the men's Branch and the women's. If there isn't a women's Branch get wives and sweethearts to help, for the club is a mixed club and you will do better with mixed helpers.

Although they may meet in your Toc H rooms to start with, let the deaf feel it is their club and do not fuss over them. The presence of a few Toc H'ers, and we have found that two of each sex is ample, will (or should) help to lay the foundations of a good spirit. But the measure of your success will be the extent to which they achieve independence of Toc H. We haven't been able to hand over responsibility to the deaf members yet and we are small in numbers but we do enjoy ourselves! By the way, when the club grows large enough I believe there are grants to be had and the appropriate local authority can sometimes help with accommodation.

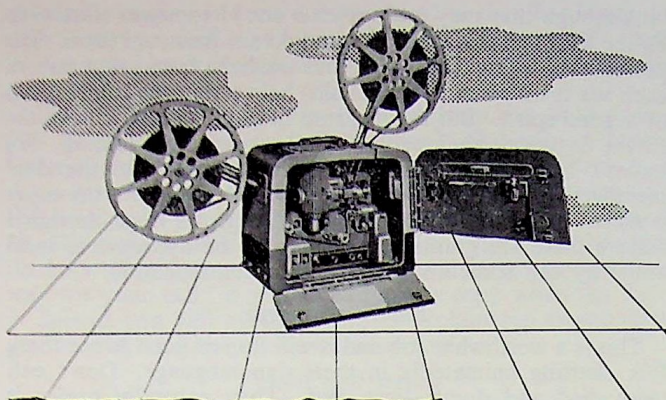
Far from dumb

This is a worthwhile job and it will do you good to see these folk chatting animatedly in their sign language. Don't call them deaf and dumb—just deaf. They naturally prefer it that way. And with good reason, for in truth they are far from being dumb. Some have learnt to speak very well though their tone of voice (which they cannot hear) may be flat and colourless. Others converse at a good speed with signs, many of which mean whole words or phrases—not merely letters of the alphabet. Similarly don't include the word 'dumb' in the name of the Club. Just call it 'The Nether Wallop Deaf Club'.

Activities do not have to be confined to the weekly or fortnightly meeting! Before long you will probably find yourselves organising a charabanc outing for the club or arranging for a few cars to transport those who would like to go to a special church service for the deaf. Two of our members who went to the opening of a new centre for the deaf at Rochester some thirty miles away were caught by the television camera. What a thrill for them and for the Club!

They are a merry lot and there is plenty of laughter at the Club meetings where their personalities can open out and blossom. And you will be able to laugh at yourselves too, always a beneficial exercise, for the early efforts of some people to make themselves understood by the deaf have to be seen to be believed. One or two of us can do a bit of 'signing', some do a bit of shouting, while others most effectively mouth their words with quite fascinating facial contortions.

So much for our modest venture into the silent world. May success attend the efforts of those who have the opportunity and the inclination to help the good folk who live in it.



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FROM ALL PARTS *DIRECT from AREAS*



SCOTLAND—Toc H Edinburgh men and women will occupy a stand at the annual October Exhibition of Handicrafts, which is held in the Waverley Market and is sponsored by Rotary. On the stand will be found a group of men preparing bundles of kindling for old folks, women making blankets, etc., and each night there will be shown to people something of the life of the Toc H Family in Edinburgh. The Branches will also be responsible for guiding around the Exhibition any disabled persons; many organisations have come in to help them in this job, and the Taxi Drivers' Association will carry all disabled persons to the Waverley Market free of charge. Ken Bloxham and Frances Beeton will speak in the Assembly Hall on two nights, and the Exhibition will be followed up by the Branches inviting to their meetings all interested in the Movement.

JOHNNIE MACMILLAN.

LINCOLNSHIRE—Recently Louth Branch held its fifth annual Horticultural Show in aid of the Family Purse. Started in a small way five years ago it has grown each year until now it has become a tradition in the town. The Mayor of the Borough opened the show and a local celebrity presented the cups, medals and certificates. Organising a show is hard work and provides a few headaches but, by jove, it gets the chaps together on a grand corporate job.

HARRY TRAVIS.

SOUTHERN—Parties of handicapped people and old age pensioners were the guests of members and friends in Bournemouth at a Celebrity Concert by Moura Lympny at the Winter Gardens in October. In the audience also were parties of school children. The proceeds will go to Toc H development. Some members of Portsmouth and Old Portsmouth have been doing some door knocking to make a survey of the Eastney district of the city. Likely contacts have since been invited to a Branch supper. Hartley Wintney again picked a fine Saturday for their annual Garden Party and made a net profit of £150 for the Family Purse.

BOB KNIGHT.

N. LONDON—Late last year Edmonton had a visit from John Barclay of the International Help for Children Organisation and, by a happy coincidence, Tubby popped in during the evening. Later, other voluntary organisations were contacted and John Barclay came again to speak before a broader audience. A committee was formed, and arrangements are now under way to receive a first party of Polish refugee children, aged eight to eleven years, into foster-parents' homes in Edmonton for a three-months' holiday. Not all the homes needed are yet forthcoming, but no doubt they will be. Kentish Town have raised £20 for their old folks' holiday fund with the aid of a barrel organ. The weather was particularly bad, and the renderings of "Singin' in the Rain" were most appropriate. Wireless sets for the elderly have been provided and maintained by Barnet.

MAYNE ELSON.



A three Branch get-together held this summer when Weston-super-Mare, Exeter and Twerton (Bath) Branches, for the second year running, met at the Weston Headquarters.

WESTERN—As there is no local second-hand book shop, Keynsham Branch are planning to open one in their Headquarters on Saturday mornings. It will give local book-lovers a chance to browse amongst books and also benefit the Family Purse. Bristol Hospital Broadcasts Appeal was held on the Rovers Ground on September 15 when nearly £200 was collected. Clevedon Branch acted as hosts to a party of old people on an outing organised by the Gloucester Branch to Clevedon. Calne Branch are interested in Greenacres School, a Home Office Approved School for girls. Corsham Branch visit Eagle House Boys' Home, Bathford, talking with the boys and taking an interest in their hobbies. Sherston group who have applied for Branch status, recently acted as hosts to members of an Invalids Car Association in Bath and Gloucester, when the two clubs met together for an afternoon rally in Sherston. Toc H folk in the Western Area wish God speed and every happiness to Arthur Langley and his wife, both members of Toc H in Newent, who have just left to take up their new job at the Toc H Bridgehead Association House in Birmingham. Tetbury Branch again ran their annual Old People's Outing and took them to Ross-on-Wye. Weston-Super-Mare are arranging to run a number of "At Homes" during the winter for the local blind folk. Bleadon Branch have again run their annual Flower Show which was very successful and raised over £40 for their Winter activities for the Old Folk.

FRED BROOKER.

EAST ANGLIA—A Rally organised by Cromer Branch was attended by members in the North Norfolk District. Carrying picnic teas, they split into three groups and found spots on the beach or up on the cliffs to sit and tackle the agenda in comfort. Later in the day they returned to Cromer's meeting-room and rounded-off a most interesting and happy day under the chairmanship of 'Skipper' Bullen.

OLIVER TWISS.

TOC H JOURNAL

SUSSEX—West Sussex District have started what should be a most helpful series of talks concerning Industrial Relations. These talks are given by people who are drawn from all spheres in Industry. In their new six-months programme **East Grinstead** have attempted to show that Branch programmes can be attractive and informative for the would-be guest. Their theme for the session is "Man in Community". There is a 'theme evening' each month and the first was entitled, "True Community—Man's Need", the speaker being Padre Herbert Leggate. **Wisborough Green** group were welcome guests on this occasion. Patient ground-work on the part of 'Gen' Gennings of **Middleton-on-Sea** is preparing the way for extension at **Yapton** where it is hoped a start will soon be made. **Eastbourne** have 'adopted' Strange Ward at the Downside Hospital and periodically hold the Branch meeting there. This Summer they took twenty-four patients on an outing to Beachy Head and also arranged a 'special' tea for those patients unable to make the journey. **CYRIL CATTELL.**

EAST MIDLANDS—Welcome to the New Branches at **Aylestone**, **Leicester**, and **Brixworth**, **Northants**. Also to the new group at **Netherhall** where the eastern outskirts of Leicester join with a new estate. The Secretary, John Bryan, 43 Cardinals Walk, Leicester, will gladly call on your friends on that side of the city and introduce them to the group. **Anstey Branch** hold their village to ransom every Christmas with carol singing. The proceeds and the cars of the Branch's many friends take the old and infirm out in the Summer and a good time is had by all. This year the whole story has been recorded in colour and the Branch birthday included the film's premiere. **COLIN STEVENSON.**

NORTHERN—**Cleveland** District members and friends have entertained the Blind folk of the district to an enjoyable day's outing and entertainment. A party of thirty-three members and friends from the Area spent a week together on the Isle of Iona where they stayed in the Hostel of the Iona Community. The Western Highlands and Isles looked their loveliest and a sense of community grew as the days swiftly passed in play, chores, walking, paddling, swimming and worshipping together. **CHARLES YOUNG.**

NOTTS. & DERBY—Moves into new meeting rooms seem to be fashionable just now. **Brimington** and **Staveley** Branches in the Scarsdale District have secured more permanent quarters. Both have blossomed after hard cleaning and renovating chores by the members into most cheerful 'homes'. **Bolsover Branch** has held an Autumn fair in aid of the Family Purse. Bob Purdy was a welcome guest at a **Graeme Branch** (Derby) Guest-night recently. Last month's high-spot, the Power Conference held at Swanwick, brought fresh vision and courage to all who shared in it. **LES WHEATLEY.**

MARCHES—**Offa's Dyke** District members renewed old acquaintances with North Wales members at Wrexham on September 14, at the inaugural meeting of the **Acton and Garden Village** unit. At a Scout Rally held at Donnington (Salop), on September 22, Charles Allen, a serving member of the Divisional Executive, was presented with the Boy Scout Association "Thanks Badge" for his services over many years to Scouting. **T. ROMANIS.**

KENT—Congratulations to **Gillingham** by whose organising ability the grand total of £250 was collected for cancer research. Excellent work is being done by a member of **Rainham** in running, on one night of the week, the Boys Club at a local Borstal. Opportunities abound for other members to give a hand with this job. **Sevenoaks** are now quite 'movie minded' having launched their Mobile Film Unit on its way. They are well ahead of the commercial world since theirs is the result of a 4-D effort: dynamic diligence and devoted determination.

CYRIL CATTELL.

Several **Margate** members last month attended the wedding of our American member. Tom Brownell is the third American Serviceman stationed at Manston who has visited our Branch and liked it well enough to join the Family and be initiated. The other two have now returned to the U.S.A., but we still hear of them. The bride came from the States for the wedding, and having no relations in this country was given away by Harry Glew, our Branch Pilot.

HOWARD HALL.

OXFORD & THAMES VALLEY—Here are details of some new groups: **Bracknell**, Secretary, George Guscott, c/o Dick Bonnett, The Beeches, Round's Hill, Bracknell, Berks.; **Wantage Joint Unit**, Secretary, Mrs. W. J. Hawkey, The Flat, Willscot, Wantage, Berks.; **Oxford International Group (Joint Unit)**, Secretary, Mrs. Warner (who has recently travelled over from the West Indies). The address is 38 Fourth Avenue, Slade Camp, Headington, Oxford.

OLIVER WILKINSON.

E. LONDON—Three years ago **Barking** Branch formed a club for the physically handicapped, who chose for themselves the title "The Happy Wanderers". This summer, a Barking member who has moved to Runwell found a quiet sandy beach beside the Blackwater Estuary and in September a party of twenty-seven Happy Wanderers and their accompanying members enjoyed a wonderful outing thanks to the co-operation of **Wickford** members.

ERNIE WOOD.



Manchester's working party of Romiley group members reinforced by members from Stockport and New Mills Branches at the Garden Party held in July at the Nah Top Sanatorium, Marple.

NORTH WESTERN—During the Summer months **Southport** spent their evenings at the local Children's Homes digging a sandpit and lining it with concrete. They also secured an old swing which they dismantled, repainted and set up for the children's enjoyment.

The **Fylde** and **East Lancashire** Districts decided to get to know each other and met at **Preston** recently. They enjoyed each other's company and look forward to meeting again from time to time.

Tubby passed through **Liverpool** on his way to **America** where he has gone to recruit more **Winant Volunteers**.

JIM GREEN.

BEDS. & HERTS.—On a sunny afternoon, a small but select assortment of cars could be seen cruising at 20 m.p.h., precisely, around lanes and by-ways centred on **Gustard Wood**. Organised by **Tony Wren** of **Welwyn** District Team, and open to all **Tot H** car-owners in the **Area** (space-ships and jet-cars barred) the competition was for a trophy to be presented later, when timings have been checked. **Royston, Stevenage, Welwyn Garden City** and **Lemsford & Ayot** countrymen have combined to form a new District to be known as **North Herts**.

FRANK R. FIGG.

YORKSHIRE—At the **Barbecue** held on the sands by **Scarborough** Branch, over 8,000 people were present. There is a "mixed unit" meeting regularly at **Withernsea**, whose progress is being followed with great interest. First meetings have been arranged at **Hedon** and **Hornsea**. A very successful week-end Conference was held at **Cottingham** with over 100 present at each session to hear **Iain Fraser** and **Padre John Jones**. **Bridlington** have, amongst other jobs, entertained about forty cripples from **Hull** for a day's outing. **Osselt** are hoping to do something at **Dewsbury** in the near future. **Wakefield** have been helping in broadcasting concerts to hospitals, but unfortunately their tape recorder has been stolen, so the job is in abeyance for the present. **Wortley-de-Leeds** have become expert at draughts and have instituted a draughts championship. **Grenoside** (**Sheffield** District) are now meeting regularly again. Congratulations to **Sowerby** (near **Halifax**) on becoming a most promising group.

JOHN MADDOCK.

SOUTH WESTERN—This month's high-spot was undoubtedly the **Area Conference** at **Westward Ho!**, this year one of the series of **Power Conferences**. Our own members were joined by members from fourteen of the **Western Area Branches** plus a few hardy souls from **Wales**, and a really inspiring week-end we all had. **Stoke-sub-Hamdon** have become the fortunate(?) possessors of a barrel-organ which I'm told plays ten different tunes. I'm prepared to believe it and if other Branches wish to borrow same it will be available after **Christmas**—at a small charge—plus postage! Both **Whipton** and **Barnstaple** groups have found homes of their own. Two housewarmings shortly, and bags of welcome for visitors. **GILBERT FRANCIS**.

WALES—**Llandudno** Branches arranged the annual outing for forty-five children from the **Blodwell Home**, **Llandudno Junction**, also fourteen aged persons from the **Plas Gogarth Home**, **Llandudno**. On this occasion the venue was **Benllech Bay**, the coaches travelling via **Betws-y-Coed**. The party were served with an excellent tea at the **Bay**, and on the return journey a call was made at **Beaumaris Fair** where the party had a rollicking time.

J. J. JOHNSON.



OPEN HUSTINGS

The Editor welcomes letters on all matters concerning Toc H. For reasons of space the right is reserved to shorten letters submitted, and every effort is made to print a representative selection from those received.

'I was in Prison'

I HOPE I may not be regarded as an intruder if I make a brief comment on the first paragraph of Barkis' article on Kenya.

It was very misleading. Indeed, it misrepresents. I was very much involved in the controversy to which he refers and perhaps he will tell his readers whoever charged that rifle butts were used on women at Kamiti. Why refute charges that were never made? The charges that were made were serious enough.

Barkis also misleads over the Colonial Secretary's replies about the ages of the young girls in these camps. In fact he gave six replies—all different. The record of them is very instructive. I hope Toc H members will watch the House of Commons discussions on this question when Parliament resumes. Barkis does not appear to have kept in touch.

One final comment which is really directed at Barkis' reasoning. If tribal custom regards fourteen as an adult age for females and if it regards heavy labour by women as normal, and if this is an adequate defence of what we have done in these camps, why change any tribal customs? Is the argument that where a tribal custom is convenient to our case we use it but where it is inconvenient we change it? and where we have changed it and found it incon-

venient we change it back?

I hope my old friends in Toc H will think about what we have done and are doing in Kenya a lot harder than that!

SHAUN HERRON.

British Weekly, W.C.2.

NOTE: *The Editor has kindly invited me to comment on my old friend Shaun's letter and I will touch briefly on his three main points:—*

(a) Among other charges the one that Kikuyu women were struck with rifle butts in Kamiti Prison was certainly made and denied not only by the Kenya Government but, for instance, by an independent investigator in the course of a long article in the *East African Standard* of June 8, 1956.

(b) Miss Eileen Fletcher, who served for a few months on the hard-pressed staff of Kamiti Prison, brought the charge that some young girls there were condemned to "life imprisonment": this was never the case. She named, as examples, girls of eleven and twelve, but on investigation at the instance of the Colonial Secretary the girl of eleven was found to be a married woman of eighteen. It was then noticed that the prison record had been altered *from the higher to the lower age* in different coloured ink. By whom this was done is still—so far as the general public is concerned—"wropt in

mystery". Meanwhile, in the course of the long to-ing-and-fro-ing between the Kenya authorities and the home Government concerning this complicated affair it is not altogether surprising that the Colonial Secretary had to revise his replies in the House of Commons. I will not attempt to say more as the case is still *sub judice*.

(c) Shaun challenges my "reasoning" about tribal custom; it is now my turn to comment on his. Why does he conclude that I am arguing against changing "any tribal custom"—unless it be (and this seems to me an ungenerous suggestion, belied again and again in the British record in East Africa) for our own convenience? There is a great deal to be said about "changing tribal custom" but I did not begin to say it. I only said that it is the custom for Kikuyu women—like the native women all over Africa, in most of Asia and in many countries of Europe—to do the larger share of heavy work. Anyone in detention, possibly for several years, obviously should not sit doing nothing: that way lies degradation of body and mind. Of the Mau Mau women at Kamiti the article I have already mentioned says, "All the work is far lighter than that expected" (i.e. by tribal custom) "in the Reserves. Contrary to allegations in Britain, no woman has ever worked at quarrying stone or carrying large building blocks."

As for age, in the tropical countries all round the world, where women mature more quickly than in Northern Europe, a girl of fourteen is almost universally regarded as adult and marriageable. At that age a Kikuyu girl is initiated into womanhood with a very cruel rite—a tribal custom which Christian missionaries have been struggling

for years to change. They have met with stubborn resistance and indeed their efforts were one of the causes of unrest behind the Mau Mau outbreak. The emancipation of women (as witness its history in our own 'advanced' country) is perhaps the most difficult and long-term of revolutions.

The whole history of East Africa in the sixty years of British control is a record of "changing tribal customs", often for the better, sometimes for the worse.

As for Kamiti I hold no brief for all that has happened there; I don't doubt that in the tremendous pressure and shortage of staff in its earlier days (and that is already old history) serious irregularities took place. For the kind of men and women I found running an extremely complex job of work there last June I have the greatest sympathy and admiration.

BARCLAY BARON.

The 'other halves'

MRS. HAWKE'S letter in the September JOURNAL concerning Toc H wives delighted me. As one who had no illusions from the start (I was roped in on a Toc H job before we were engaged, and promised that it would be a case of "I take Toc H and Thee to be my wedded wife"), I applaud her decision after twenty years to join the Women's Association. It is so much easier to bid my husband a cheery farewell as he departs for his innumerable Toc H meetings when I know he will look after our four small children on my "evening off" at Saltash's W.A. Meeting. How much easier it is to smile when he announces he's off to an Area or Power Conference, when I've had the inspiration of a week-end at a W.A.

Conference at Killerton, and look forward to going again next year!

Incidentally, being a Toc H wife has its compensations. I have spent most fascinating evenings listening to spirited arguments about Toc H, between members of the Toc H staff and my husband.

I hope more neglected Toc H wives (and there must be hundreds) will discover the Women's Association, and then come to know for themselves the compelling power of our great Movement, thus surely making their own lives much happier and richer. MURIEL BELLINGHAM.
Saltash, Cornwall.

Home and Away

IN COMMON with too many others I have visited units on the offchance only to find the premises closed and no notice of explanation in sight.

It was, therefore, all the more refreshing to find on the door of a North London meeting place the other night a notice giving details of where the unit was gathering, the programme, and the following invitation: "Do come along, and don't worry if you are a bit late. New friends will be very welcome".

The unit concerned is two months old. Older units please copy! GORDON BROWN.
London, N.12.

Change in Format ?

WHEN the subject of the price of the JOURNAL was being discussed, one of our members, who is in the printing trade, asked whether there would be a saving of cost if the JOURNAL were issued more in the style of a newspaper.

A page of material in the JOURNAL is about 6" by 3½", and the 44 pages of the September

issue therefore contained 924 square inches (including the cover. This would be enough to fill an eight-page JOURNAL with pages 13" by 11" (allowing for margins).

With an inferior type of paper, we would lose on the pictorial reproductions, but I should think it would make the JOURNAL as easily readable as a morning paper. And it might be cheaper.

VIC HARDACRE.

Llanishen Branch.

From Tubby's Post-bag

My dear Tubby,

AFTER many, many years I found myself last month in Poperinge. A charming lady showed me over, and my few silent moments in that Upper Room moved me deeply. I was thankful to find it in such excellent condition and so well cared for. I promised to send them a copy of my last book for their library. Do you remember what I wrote:

"Toc H sanctified a building in the shadow of death so those who survived might be better citizens, and those who crossed the Rubicon might be comforted in their departure. To write of it brings back memories of the First World War and that tall white house in a Belgian town, 31, rue de l'Hopital, Poperinge. That town on the Ypres salient was not a pleasant town in 1916, but a brave chaplain with enthusiasm and high purpose made the Upper Room of that house a place that few who knew it in those awesome days will ever forget. Tubby has seen to it that they do not forget as the great institution he has founded with branches throughout the world today testifies."

I cannot say more than that.

Yours always sincerely,

CAMPBELL STUART.

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